


FILED
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U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.

★ MAY 05 2009 ★

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BROOKLYN OFFICE

SHIFRA STONE,

Plaintiff, 

CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT

09-1827

-against-

TRS RECOVERY SERVICES INC. AND
TELECHECK SERVICES INC.,

Defendants.

DEARIE, CH. J.

J. ORENSTEIN, M.J.

**COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS
OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT**

Plaintiff brings this action on her own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated for damages arising from the defendants' violation of §1692 *et seq.* of Title 15 of the United States Code, the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act (hereinafter "FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

Introduction

1. This action seeks redress for the illegal practices of defendants, concerning the collection of debt, in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* ("FDCPA").

Jurisdiction and Venue

2. This Court has Federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
3. Venue is proper in this District because the acts and transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this District. Additionally, plaintiff resides in this District.
4. Plaintiff is a resident of the State of New York who resides in Kings County.

5. Plaintiff is a "Consumer" as that term is defined by § 1692(a)(3) of the FDCPA in that the alleged debt that the defendants, sought to collect from plaintiff is a consumer debt.
6. Upon information and belief, defendants are active Texas businesses, which caused the collection letter complained of herein to be sent within the county of Kings, State of New York.
7. Defendants are regularly engaged in the collection of debts allegedly owed by consumers.
8. Defendants are a "Debt Collector" as that term is defined by § 1692(a)(6) of the FDCPA.
9. Plaintiff received direct communications from defendants, in the form of an initial written notice, dated April 12, 2009.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

10. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP"), on behalf of plaintiff and all consumers and their successors in interest (the "Class") who have received debt collection notices and/or letters from the defendants as of one year prior to the filing of plaintiff's complaint until the present, which indicated that the defendants would write a check against the consumer's account in order to pay for a \$20.00 fee resulting from the consumer having written a check with insufficient funds. Excluded from the Class is the defendants herein, and any person, firm, trust, corporation, or other entity related to or affiliated with the defendants, including, without limitation, persons who are officers, directors, employees, associates or partners of defendants. The Class consists only of consumers with New York addresses. There is an additional Class, which includes all consumers in the

State of New York who were sent initial contact letters that failed to disclose who the creditor was.

11. This action is properly maintained as a class action. This Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 for maintaining a class action.

12. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, 40 or more persons have received debt collection notices from the defendants, which violate various provisions of the FDCPA.

13. There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:

a. Whether the defendants violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. § §1692g, 1692f and 1692e and 1692j.

b. Whether plaintiff and the Class have been injured by the defendants' conduct; and

c. Whether plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of defendants' wrongdoing and, if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution.

14. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class, and plaintiff has no interests adverse or antagonistic to the interests of other members of the Class.

15. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and have retained experienced counsel, competent in the prosecution of class action litigation.

16. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action.

17. A class action will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment also will permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a class action the Class members will continue to suffer losses of statutorily protected rights as well as monetary damages and if defendants' conduct will proceed without remedy they will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains.

18. Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

19. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference, all the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

20. Upon information and belief, the collection letter is a form letter sent by defendants to the plaintiff.

21. Collection letters, such as those sent by defendants, are to be evaluated by the

objective standard of the hypothetical “least sophisticated consumer.”

22. Section 1692e of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act states that:

“A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt.”

23. Section 1692f prohibits any unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect a debt.

24. Defendants violated § 1692e(2), by using false and deceptive means in the collection of a debt by making a false representation that it was entitled to receive compensation for payment by automated phone system or the internet.

25. Defendants violated § 1692f(1) by collecting an amount that was not authorized by contract or permitted by law. Defendants violated 1692f(6) by threatening to take money out of the consumer’s bank account without any authorization or any legal right to do so and in violation of 15 USC section 1693.

26. Defendants violated § 1692g by failing to disclose whom the creditor was.

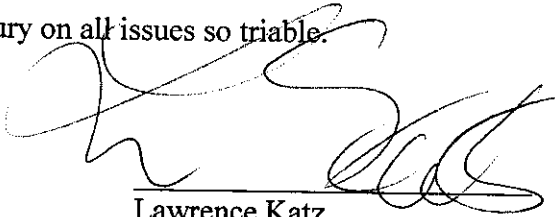
27. Defendants violated § 1692j by designing form that was false and deceptive.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment as follows:

- a) Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a class action and certifying plaintiff as Class representative;
- b) Awarding plaintiff and the class statutory and actual damages;
- c) Awarding plaintiff and the class costs of this action, including reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses; and
- d) Awarding plaintiff and the class such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: Cedarhurst, New York
April 27, 2009.

Plaintiff requests trial by jury on all issues so triable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lawrence Katz', written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence Katz
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Cedarhurst, New York 11516
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